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ATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants: Masami SHIRAI et al.

Group Art Unit: 3662

Appln. No. : 10/602,862

Examiner: Luke RATCLIFFE

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For

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RESPONSE UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents U.S. Patent and Trademark Office Customer Service Window, Mail Stop Amendment Randolph Building 401 Dulany Street Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In response to the Official Action of November 2, 2005, in which a three-month shortened statutory period for response was set to expire on February 2, 2006, and for which a Request for Extension of Time is being filed concurrently herewith, setting the period for response to expire on April 3, 2006 (April 2, 2006 being a Sunday), Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections set forth in the above-mentioned Official Action in view of the herein contained amendments and remarks.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims that begin on page 2 of this Response.

Remarks begin on page 14 of this Response.